THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) No such programme has been formulated by the Ministry of Rural Development to provide urban facilities in rural areas during the coming three years.

(b) to (c) Questions do not arise.

Performance of SEBs under APDRP

*319. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for financial and better performance to be achieved by each State Electricity Board (SEB) under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP);

(b) the circumstances under which SEBs were forced to avail the services of consultants with little experiences of distribution sector;

(c) if so, the details of consultancy charges being paid and whether it will be a grant or loan to SEBs from Government; and

(d) whether these charges could have been saved by availing the services of CEA; if so, whether Government propose to assign this work to CEA?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme, it is envisaged that in the next five years each of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) would

(i) reduce the T&D losses to 15%, and

(ii) achieve financial turnaround.

However, on account of differing conditions and circumstances prevailing in the States, the milestones to achieve the above can vary from SEB to SEB.

(b) In order to ensure that the above objectives are achieved within the given time frame, turnkey project approach involving concept to commissioning was adopted rather than continue with the existing system of implementation. Organizations with experience in execution of turnkey

projects, preparation of detailed project reports and proven track record in project management were identified to render such consultancy to the SEBs. Extent and choice of the consultant depends upon the need of the utility.

(c) The consultancy charges are envisaged to be limited to 5% of the project cost. The expenses on account of consultancy are part of the total cost of the project, which has an element of grant as well as loan from the Central Government.

(d) No, Sir.

Purchase of AJTs and submarines

*320. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI P. PRAHBHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to purchase Advance Jet Trainers (AJTs.) and submarines from foreign countries;

(b) whether global tenders were floated therefor and if so, the details thereof;

(c) if answer to part (b) is in negative, the reasons for inordinate delay therefor; and

(d) by when a final decision is expected to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Government have decided to induct Advanced Jet Trainers for the smooth transition of trainee pilots on to the frontline fighter squadrons equipped with high technology aircraft.

2. Keeping the requirement in view, the Air HQrs had made a desk survey in December 1985 of a number of Advanced Jet Trainers then available in the world market.

3. Request for Proposals (REPs) for AJT was issued on three occasions *i.e.,* in 1986, 1992 and finally in 1999 to the two shortlisted vendors M/s BAE for the HAWK aircraft and M/s Dassault Aviation for the Alpha Jet Aircraft. No contract has been finalized, as yet. It would not